

## REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 1-5, 12-14 and 23-25 have been amended. Claims 6-11, 15-22 and 26-33 have been cancelled without prejudice. New claims 34-36 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-5, 12-14, 23-25 and 34-36 are presented for examination.

### 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection

Claims 1, 12, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kettlewell in view of Koopman.

Applicants respectfully submit that although Kettlewell discloses “allocat[ing] a random amount of space on the stack before it does anything else” (page 3), it is not the same as adding empty spaces to a known place on the stack and removing one or more of the empty spaces from the stack to find the return address, as recited by claim 1.

Koopman discloses the well-known “Last-In-First-Out” technique for removing trays from the stack by pushing and popping to fill and empty the stack, respectively (pages 1-2, fig. 1.1). However, Koopman, like Kettlewell does not teach or reasonably suggest removing empty spaces to find the return address, as recited by claim 1. Further, Koopman, like Kettlewell, does not teach or reasonably suggest adding empty spaces to a known place, as recited by claim 1. Hence, at least with regard to claim 1, Koopman adds nothing relevant Kettlewell.

In contrast, claim 1, as amended, in pertinent part, recites “adding a plurality of empty spaces to a known place on the stack” and “removing one or more of the plurality of empty spaces from the stack to find the return address” (emphasis provided).

Kettlewell and Koopman, neither individually nor when combined, teach or reasonably

suggest the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims.

Claims 2-4, 8-11, 13-15, 19-22, 24-26 and 30-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified Kettlewell, and Koopman, and in further view of Cowan, et al. ("Cowan").

Claims 8-11, 15, 19-22, 26 and 30-33 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 2-4, 13-14 and 24-25 depend from one of independent claims 1, 12 and 23 and thus include the limitations of the claim from which they depend. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4, 13-14 and 24-25.

Claims 5-7, 16-18 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the modified Kettlewell, and Koopman, and Cowan, in further view of Menezes et al. ("Menezes").

Claims 6-7, 16-18 and 27-29 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 5 depends from and includes the limitations of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5.

### **Conclusion**

In light of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is hereby earnestly requested.

**Invitation for a Telephone Interview**

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

**Request for an Extension of Time**

Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

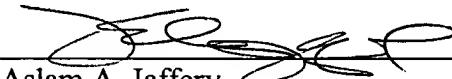
**Charge our Deposit Account**

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

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